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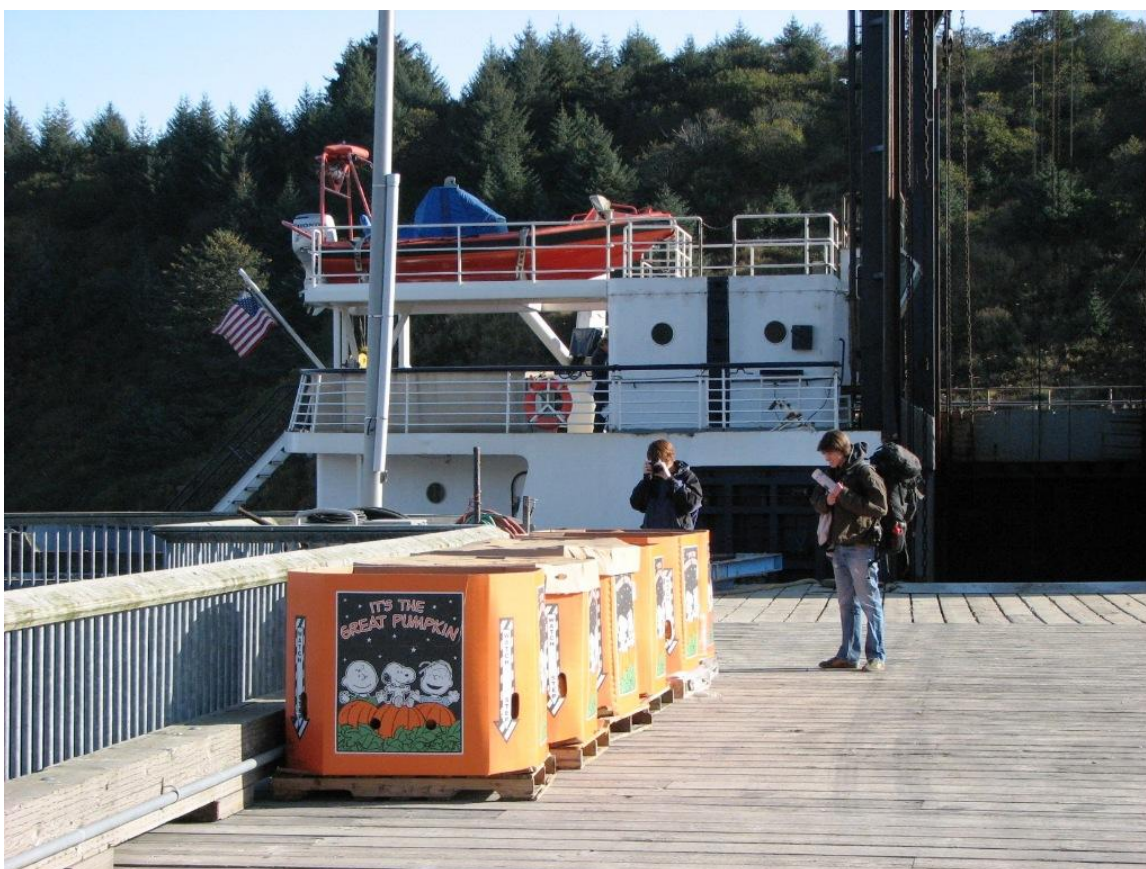
Press Release

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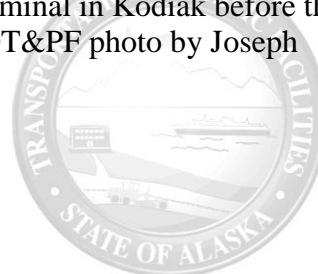
Ferry Tustumena crew launches annual Great Aleutian Pumpkin Run

(JUNEAU, Alaska) – The ferry Tustumena crew kicked off its annual Great Aleutian Pumpkin Run Thursday from Kodiak to communities along the Aleutian Chain.



THE GREAT PUMPKINS: Travelers photograph pumpkin-loaded, palletized boxes on the dock at the Alaska Marine Highway System ferry terminal in Kodiak before the pallets are loaded aboard the ferry Tustumena. (Official DOT&PF photo by Joseph Stevens, AMHS)

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TUSTY'S PUMPKIN RUN 2/2/2/2

For the past few years, the Tustumena's crew has organized a Halloween treat for the children in the villages along the route. Now a tradition, this event is a highlight for the crew, passengers, those who donate ashore, and the children who receive the pumpkins and participate in the event.

"Years ago, our deck hand Don Darnell, now retired, learned of the high cost of shipping pumpkins to remote Aleutian villages," said Mark Listberger, Tustumena's chief steward. "He put together a Halloween pumpkin giveaway program through donations from the crew and the Kodiak Safeway store. For six years running, the Tustumena loads up several pallets of pumpkins in Kodiak, decorates an area of the ship and invites the children to come aboard for some trick or treating and to select pumpkins to take to their classrooms and homes. To the delight of everyone, some of the crew and passengers dress in costume and rig some 'tricks' and lots of treats," explained Listberger.

The yearly event became successful through contributions of the Tustumena's crew and the Kodiak Safeway store.

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